

ULSTER TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 25, 2006 AT 6:00 PM

**CALLED TO ORDER BY SUPERVISOR WOERNER, CHAIRMAN at 6:00PM**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL BY CLERK**

TOWN COUNCILMAN CRAIG ARTIST

TOWN COUNCILMAN DAVID BRINK

TOWN COUNCILMAN JOEL B. BRINK

TOWN COUNCILMAN ROCCO SECRETO - Absent

SUPERVISOR NICKY B. WOERNER

Supervisor Woerner asked Mr. James Maloney, the Town Assessor and Flood Coordinator, to give an overview of the flooding situation.

Mr. Maloney reported that, since the last meeting, July 17, 2006, the town has filed its application for flood relief with FEMA and SEMO through Art Synder, UC Emergency Management. He urged everyone to file a claim to ensure that they have coverage under FEMA and SEMO. Last week, Councilman Joel B. Brink, Councilman David Brink, Councilman Secreto, and Supervisor Woerner met with Senator Bonacic and a member of FEMA and SEMO to discuss if anything could be done on a local level to mitigate the situation through the local Town Highway Departments, such as cleaning up and removing debris from the creek. The Senator also toured the damaged area.

Also, Mr. Maloney met with Joel Young from the US Department of Agriculture who reported that they had a 504 loan/grant program to help fill in the cracks that the other agencies missed.

Supervisor Woerner reported that Congressman Hinchey would be meeting with the town and touring the area next week.

Summary of questions asked at the informational meeting:

Mr. Tim O'Brien suggested regulating the foot prints of buildings in flood plains.

What is being done to lower the water level at the reservoir? What are the Town and DEP doing for flood management? What is the expense to the Town? Any legal suits?

Supervisor Woerner stated that the Town has talked to Senator Bonacic about the DEP. The Town has no power over the DEP but the Collation of Supervisor's is discussing the matter to see what they can do to get them to act more promptly. The Coalition is having some confidential discussions to form a position. There is no legal suit at this time. The expense to the Town, at least for the police was \$4,000.00. The other expenses were not on hand at the moment.

Once the Dam is fixed, will the public still have to worry about flooding?

ULSTER TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 25, 2006 AT 6:00 PM

Supervisor Woerner – Yes, the flooding problem may be mitigated, but there is still a chance for flooding if the conditions are right.

Mr. Maloney reported that he has written to the State and County government on behalf of the town to enact a “Flood Assessment Relief Act” that will allow tax relief to property owners who were impacted as a result of the flood. The assessor has to follow the real property tax law. There is a cut off date of March 1, 2006 for a property value to be assessed that can’t be changed once the roll is submitted. This law, if approved by the State Government, would allow him and other assessors statewide to reassess the properties at the current value after the flood, resulting in a discounted property tax bill.

Mark Ferri reported that FEMA offers a wide array of programs. In answer to an audience question, one of the programs is a land purchase program, that will be voluntary. This is a competitive program that the town will have to have to justify in cost savings. At this point in time, FEMA is still assessing all the damage in NY State and is far away from offering that program. An amount of money would be given based on this assessed damage. FEMA would offer programs to remove houses, raise them or move the houses out of the flood plain. For the first time ever, the state has agreed to cover the remaining 25% cost.

A gentleman suggested reducing the reservoir water system since the population of New York City has shrunk drastically since its peak population.

There was a long discussion about the Gilboa Dam among the audience and the Town Board with statements requesting the reservoir be used for flood management by lowering the water level before rain, building alternative run offs and making the DEP contribute to flood relief. There were also requests for faster flood relief assistance.

A gentleman informed the Town Board of a website called [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) that was helpful in preparing for the flood.

Councilman David Brink announced that the Town Board is looking for people interested in serving on the Sawkill & Esopus Creek Coalition.

Councilman Joel B. Brink motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman David Brink  
All Ayes

Respectfully Submitted by  
Jason Cosenza, RM  
Ulster Town Clerk